

Workshop: Legal Perspectives on Climate Reparations

Call for expressions of interest

We invite expressions of interest for a workshop bringing scholars across a range of legal disciplines into conversation about the increasingly critical issue of climate reparations. Funded by the Socio-Legal Studies Association's Seminar Competition, this workshop will take place from **10:00 – 16:00** on **April 6th, 2025** in the **Lady Hale Moot Court Room** at the **University of Bristol Law School**. Refreshments will be provided for all participants, and there are funds available to facilitate the participation of scholars without institutional support available.

Background

The concept of 'climate reparations' has long been a prominent one in the field of climate justice, invoked by a range of subaltern scholars, politicians, and activists on the frontlines of climate change – however, the term has not been embraced within international climate frameworks such as the Paris Agreement. This rhetorical gap has consequences – provisions for the transfer of funds from countries most responsible for the climate crisis to those least responsible (e.g. the 'mitigation and adaptation' and 'loss and damage' provisions of the Paris Agreement (Article 7 and 8, respectively)) are framed in terms of 'support' and 'sustainable development' rather than justice or compensation.

Legal scholars have much to contribute to this discussion. Despite the emotional, political, and ideological weight of the term 'reparations', concepts of repair and justice are at the heart of virtually all legal disciplines. At a critical juncture in the climate crisis, this project aims to bring legal scholars that do not closely consider climate change in their work into conversation with those that do. The aim is to access untapped sources of knowledge and reasoning that can be brought to bear upon existing legal avenues for transferring resources to those most impacted by the climate crisis.

This workshop, generously funded by the Socio-Legal Studies Association, is the second in a three-part series that seeks interdisciplinary perspectives on climate reparations. The ultimate goal of these projects is to develop research-based policy-oriented outputs that evaluate avenues for pursuing climate reparations.

This workshop will thus focus on producing an interdisciplinary legal analysis of Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, the provision focused on addressing 'loss and damage' resulting from climate change. Researchers from the University of Bristol Law School's Centre for Environmental Law and Sustainability with specific expertise on this provision will facilitate and guide the development of this analysis.

We invite 150-word expressions of interest from anybody that wishes to attend event. Please submit expressions of interest to Dr. Sahar Shah via e-mail (sahar.shah@bristol.ac.uk) by 10 February, 2025. Please indicate in your expression of interest if you would need financial support to attend the event.

We look forward to hearing from you!